Cycling in Knox

Knox has more than 70 kilometres of off-road shared paths around the municipality, making it one of the most cycling-oriented cities in Victoria. The Knox Bike Network will take you to local parks, reserves, leisure centres, historic homesteads, shopping centres, waterways and much more. It is a great way to see the City. There are many exciting locations along the bike path for picnics as well as scenic spots where you can stop to take in the view.

Budding orange bicycle networks began in 1997, and it was always envisaged that a comprehensive network of bike paths would traverse the municipality. Today there are eight bridges and 18 underpasses in the network, providing a safe recreational environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Knox Bike Network also connects with the networks of neighbouring municipalities. So, if you feel adventurous and TI, you can cycle up through Boronia, Ranges or down to Port Phillip Bay. It is important to note that the Knox Bike Network is a shared use facility and users should be courteous and respectful of each other in order to ensure maximum enjoyment for everyone. Pedestrians and cyclists are permitted to use the paths, and cyclists should give way to pedestrians.

The Tim Neville Arboretum is located on 4.4 hectares of land on the corner of Francis Crescent and Doveton Road in Ferntree Gully (Melway 73 K3). The site, which was previously an orchard, is centrally located and has the popular Knox Bike Network running along its boundary. The two ornamental lakes are a feature of the park, and with barbecues located on both ends of the park, it is an ideal picnic spot destination after a bike ride along shared paths.

A community adventure playground covers more than 3000m², incorporating large interconnected timber climbing structures, playground equipment, musical, ting and timber sculptures.

How to get there:
Accessible via the Knox Bike Network from Ferntree Gully Train Station (0.5km), Boronia Train Station (2km) and Knox City Library (3km).

Marie Wallace Baywater Park is located on the corner of Mountain Highway and Baywater Road in Baywater (Melway 64 F3). Marie Wallace Baywater Park features an extensive all abilities playground and an historic steam train locomotive. The park is also home to sports such as cricket, football, tennis and netball, alongside barbecues and shelters in a treed setting. The Knox Bike Network runs along the park’s northern boundary.

Use steady lights to see and be visible and considerate of others. It is illegal to open doors into traffic.

A person must not cause a hazard to any person or vehicle by opening a vehicle door while a vehicle is moving or getting off or out of a vehicle.

To avoid doors, look:
• through open car windows for heads
• in mirrors of trucks and vans
• at cars that have just parked
• at car tail lights

Watch the door zone:
If you can’t see this zone, ride slower or move out of the door zone. Be aware of what’s behind you if you have to reverse out of the door zone.

If a door opens:
Use your brakes and slow down. Move out of the door zone but don’t swerve into traffic.

If you get hit:
If you’re hit by a door and injury or damage results, it’s a traffic accident and details must be exchanged. Report uncooperative motorists to the police.

Sir Hubert Opperman (1906-1996), one of Australia’s great sporting cyclists, spent the last years of his life in Knox. During the 1920s and 30s, ‘Oppy’ as he became affectionately known, held virtually every Australian long distance, road racing and track record, as well as many world records, in cycling.

As a tribute to Oppy’s contribution to the sport, several bike trails along the Knox Bike Network have been named after some of his most famous races. There are a number of commemorative sculptures and memorials placed along the route.

The Opperman Trails include:
• Oppy’s Way
• The 100 Trail
• The Lands End Trail
• The Transit Trail
• The Ballarat Trail
• Paris-Brest-Paris Trail

Additionally, Knox’s annual bicycle event, The ‘Oppy Family Fun Ride’, is named after Sir Hubert. The fun ride is part of the annual Knox Festival held in March and is a great family event, with entertainment, prizes and giveaways.

Bicycle Victoria www.bv.com.au
Members receive cycling insurance discounts at bike shops, member support services and regular newsletters. This site is full of essential cycling-related information, including a comprehensive list of bike user groups and events.

VicRoads www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
VicRoads is in the process of implementing a Principal Bicycle Network across Melbourne. More information, including downloadable maps, is available from the VicRoads website.

Rail Trails Australia www.railtrails.org.au
Rail Trails Australia are multipurpose public paths created from abandoned railway corridors. With gentle gradients and minimal road interactions, the trails provide safe and scenic cycling routes.

Knox City Council www.knox.vic.gov.au
First-Aid services are available during the day and on weekends, and in case of emergency, please contact Knox City Council on 1300 649 522 for more information.

Bicycle Knox www.knoxbike.net.au/~knoxbike
This local cycling group organises a range of metropolitan and country rides, generally ranging from 40-80km. It is illegal to open doors into traffic.

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